

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

- 1-22. (canceled)
23. (previously presented) A method of compressing and packaging a single unused disposable diaper, the method comprising:
- (a) compressing a single unused diaper to reduce a size of the diaper, whereby the diaper exists in a compressed state;
 - (b) locating the single unused diaper while in the compressed state within a package, the package comprising a heat shrinkable material;
 - (c) drawing a vacuum within an interior of the package such that, when exposed to atmospheric pressure, portions of the package will collapse toward and compress the diaper;
 - (d) heating the package to shrink wrap the heat shrinkable material about the diaper; and
 - (e) sealing the package to maintain the vacuum within the interior of the package.
24. (canceled)
25. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said step (d) is performed prior to said step (e).
26. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said step (e) is performed prior to said step (d).
27. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said step (e) is performed during performance of said step (d).

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the package comprises a tubular sheet of material having an endless wall.
29. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the package comprises separate flat panels of material which are sealed in said step (e) to form the airtight interior space of the package.
30. (canceled)
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said step (b) comprises drawing a vacuum at a pressure of about 350 millibars.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein a volume of the absorbent article is reduced by the method by about 30% to about 70%.
- 33-44. (canceled.)